

## From the Principal's Desk

Having now moved into the middle part of this term, it is evident that the challenges of undertaking the final years of secondary education are emerging for students, teachers and parents.



The end of semester one is quickly approaching with all work for all students due on Friday 9 June. At the time of writing, this is a mere four weeks away. I'm pleased to report that the vast majority of students are well in control of their program as they are on track to meet our attendance requirements and produce the quantity and quality of work to meet the outcomes of their various units.

For some students the realization that the end of semester is upon us will mean that they need to "burn the midnight oil" to polish up their coursework and folios so that they meet their course requirements. For others the simple reality of the situation may mean that they have run out of time to produce any meaningful work that meets the minimum requirements. For students in this category I sincerely hope that lessons have been learnt along the way and that any shortcomings with their schooling are addressed over the remainder of the year.

Individual situations and circumstances of some students have required teachers to devote considerable additional time over the past few weeks. The additional workload of students and teachers can prove to be quite stressful and I implore everyone to consider each other's health and well-being. Yes, learning requires considerable effort but the people who manage workload stress the best have a balance in their lives. I encourage everyone to put time into planning your work and ensure that there is some downtime to spend on yourselves.

### End of Semester 1 Timeline

- Friday 9 June: *Last day for submission of all VCE Units 1 and 3 work.*
- Monday 12 June: *Queen's Birthday Public Holiday*
- Tuesday 13 June: *Mid-year practice exam for all students undertaking Year 12 (VCE Units 3/4 English, Literature, English Language and EAL at 10:00am. No classes for Year 11 students unless they are undertaking one of the English studies.*
- Wednesday 14 June: *General Achievement Test (GAT) at 10:00am for all students undertaking a VCE Unit 3/4 study.*

- Thursday 15 June: *Student Free Day (Curriculum)*
- Friday 16 June: *Student Free Day (Report Writing)*

### Semester 2

- Monday 19 June: *Semester 2 begins for all students*

All students will begin work for all VCE Unit 2 (Year 11) studies, VCE Unit 4 (Year 12) studies and all VCAL units on Monday 19 June.

It is expected that the above arrangement will give students a clear break between semester one and two. It will also allow those students who have been granted Special Provision an opportunity to come in to school during the week outlined above to complete outstanding work.

If you require further clarification, please contact me on 8862 4400.

*Michael O'Brien*  
*Principal*

## **Assistant Principal's News**

### Student Absences

Parents/guardians should use Compass School Manager to approve their child's absence which can be done in advance of or on the day of the absence. Explanations for absences when your child has missed a SAC should also be forwarded to the College.

*Robert Lewkowicz*  
*Assistant Principal*

### **General Achievement Test (GAT)**

All students undertaking a VCE unit at the 3 and 4 level need to sit the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Wednesday 14 June at 9.30am (for a 10am start) at Swinburne Senior SC.

The GAT is a three hour test of general skills over a range of areas. Though the results do not count directly towards students' scores, they provide an important "safety net" and are used in the moderation of students' results. Students need to bring a pen, pencil and eraser (for the multiple choice questions). Students must leave their bags and mobile phones in their locker. Students are required to stay for the full three hour duration of the exam.

Past GAT exam papers and information can be found on the VCAA website.

Please contact the VCE Manager at Swinburne if you have any concerns or questions regarding the GAT.

*Hugh Glenn*  
VCE Manager

### **From the Year 12 Manager's Office**

There are only four weeks of Unit 3 classes left. I would like to remind Year 12 students and parents/guardians that all work for Unit 3 is due by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of June. Students are expected to have an attendance percentage above 85% by this date and have redeemed any classes that they have missed throughout the semester to meet this requirement. It is very important that students who have fallen behind in their subjects create a plan to ensure that they can satisfy the outcomes for all of their subjects.

Year 12 students may need to:

1. Speak with each of their teachers regarding their progress in their subjects and any outstanding coursework they need to complete.
2. Manage their spare time effectively by allocating time to complete the required coursework for their subjects.
3. Shift their focus to their studies for this period of time and reduce their social commitments if needed.

I would like to see Year 12 students change their perception of coursework. While students are required to demonstrate 50 hours of coursework to satisfy Unit 3, they should also see coursework as an opportunity to practise and refine their skills, knowledge and to experiment with new techniques and approaches they have learnt in class.

I have been impressed by many of our students so far in 2017. They have shown great persistence in the face of a challenging and demanding year of schooling. I wish students all the best as they continue to progress towards the achievement of the goals that they have set for themselves at the beginning of the year.

*Joel Guye*  
Year 12 Manager

### **Practice Exams Unit 3 English Subjects**

Students and parents should be aware that there are compulsory practice mid-year exams for all students undertaking the following VCE Unit 3 English subjects:

English  
Literature  
English Language

These exams are a fantastic opportunity for students to experience exam conditions and expectations in the lead up to the real thing at the end of the year. The practice exams will be taking place in the College auditorium at

10:00 am on Tuesday 13 June. Students should speak to their subject teachers about materials permitted in their exam.

If a student is enrolled in multiple VCE Unit 3 English subjects or have a VET they can speak to their English teachers about alternative arrangements.

*Glenn Morris*  
English PITL

### **Parent Information Session: Alcohol and Drugs**

Boroondara Youth Services (BYS) have organised an information session to assist parents/guardians gain a greater understanding of the issues associated with alcohol and drug use. This will be held on Wednesday 7 June at 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Youth Services, Level 1, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.

Topics will include information about types of drugs, harm minimisation techniques, legalities and boundary setting for young people.

Booking details at [www.trybooking.com/PYFD](http://www.trybooking.com/PYFD) (numbers are limited, light supper included). For further information contact BYS on 9835 7827 or Swinburne's Wellbeing team on 8862 4400.

*Elizabeth Reardon*  
Student Wellbeing Manager

### **Swinburne Senior Secondary College students win IELLEN awards**

Two Swinburne Senior Secondary College students won Inner East Local Learning and Employment Network (IELLEN) annual awards and they were presented with their certificates and cash awards on 9 May at the IELLEN AGM held at the Prahran Town Hall.

The "VCE Student of the Year 2016" award was presented to Vishka Davina Haydock for her outstanding academic achievements in 2016. She was the Dux of Year 11, picking up numerous subject awards as well as pursuing external language studies through Victorian School of Languages. She displayed a growth mind set by choosing to study Latin- Year level 7-10 over the summer break so she could then sit a test to do her VCE Unit 3/4 in 2017. Vishka was successful and enrolled in this study this year. She also has one of the lead roles in the school play production, "California Suite". Clearly, she is able to juggle her various interests successfully. She wishes to pursue Linguistics at The University of Melbourne specialising in forensic linguistics. We are very proud of her achievements to date.



The second awardee is Bethany Whitmore for the “Outstanding Individual Achievement of the Year- 15-20 years old” in the Borroondara area. She was chosen for her achievements in the entertainment field. Bethany juggles her acting commitments with her Year 12 studies with us successfully and has had a very productive 2016 and 2017. She has just filmed a new season of “The Family Law”, in Queensland and is currently on the set in Werribee with the new telemovie, “Picnic at Hanging Rock”, in which she has a support role. Bethany reached great heights this year when the Australian movie, “Girl Asleep”, hit our screens. She was nominated for an Australian Film and TV Award (AFTA) for her role as Greta. She has had to travel for promotional work too, but has maintained a very high standard of work in all classes. Last year she won two subject awards and an “Honourable Mention” for three of her subjects. We are very proud of her achievements and look forward to her becoming a celebrity sometime soon.

*Gita Menon*  
*Assistant Year 12 Manager*

### **Top Acts 2017**

Top Acts is the grand finale of the VCE Season of Excellence, which runs annually from February to July. The concert will showcase exemplary works by students of design, technology, and the visual and performing arts.

I am delighted to inform you that Swinburne Senior Secondary College will be represented by Broderick McDonald in VCE Theatre Studies.

This is an outstanding result for Broderick. Over 130 performances from across the state were showcased in the eleven Top Class concerts. Only 24 of these were selected for Top Acts.

Concert-goers will experience exceptional performances comprising original and interpretations of existing works from across the performing arts.

Top Acts 2017 will take place on Friday 12 May at the Melbourne Recital Centre in Southbank beginning at 7:30pm.

*Mark Bailey*  
*Theatre Studies Teacher*

### **College Play: California Suite**

The annual college play by our VCE Unit 3/4 Theatre Studies students will be held from Wednesday 17 May to Saturday 20 May inclusive. This year’s play is *California Suite* by Neil Simon.

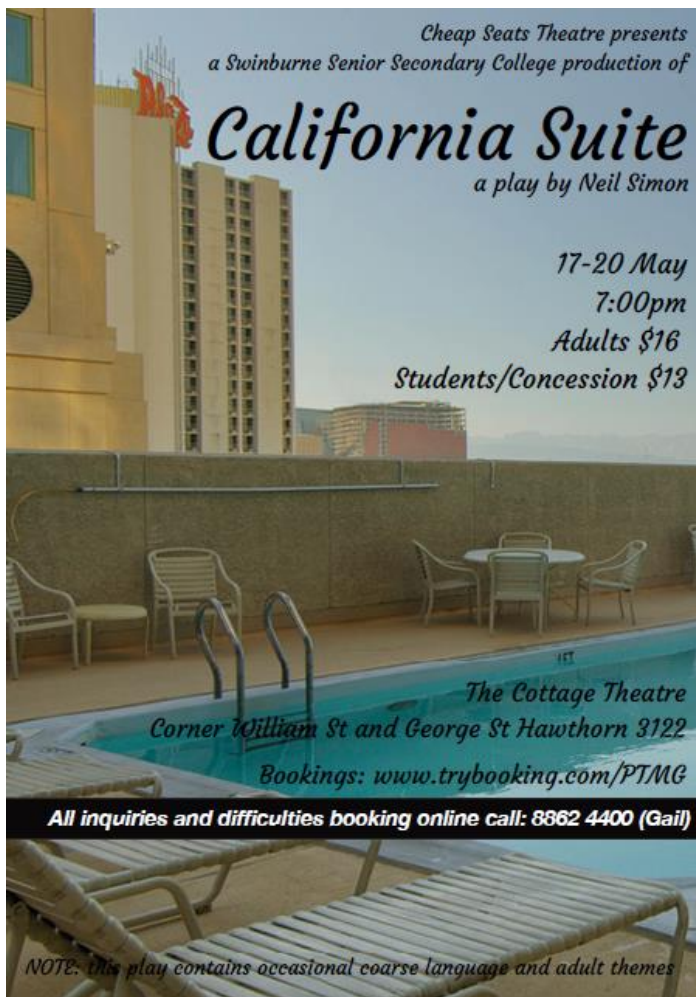
*California Suite* is a 1976 play by Neil Simon. Similar in structure to his earlier *Plaza Suite*, the comedy is composed of four playlets set in Suite 203-04, which consists of a living room and an adjoining bedroom with an en-suite bath, in The Beverly Hills Hotel.

*A Visitor from New York*, Hannah Warren is a Manhattan workaholic who flies to Los Angeles to retrieve her teenaged daughter Jenny after she leaves home to live with her successful screenwriter father William. The bickering divorced couple are forced to decide what living arrangements are best for the girl.

Conservative middle-aged businessman, Marvin Michaels, is the *Visitor from Philadelphia*, who awakens to discover a prostitute named Bunny unconscious in his bed after consuming a bottle of vodka. With his wife Millie on her way up to the suite, he must find a way to conceal all traces of his uncharacteristic indiscretion.

The *Visitors from London* are British actress, Diana Nichols, a first-time nominee for the Academy Award for Best Actress, and her husband Sidney, a once-closeted antique dealer who increasingly has become indiscreet about his sexual orientation. The Oscar is an honour that could jumpstart her faltering career, although Diana knows she doesn't have a chance of winning. She is in deep denial about the true nature of her marriage of convenience, and as she prepares for her moment in the spotlight, her mood fluctuates from hope to panic to despair.

The *Visitors from Chicago* are two affluent couples who are best friends. Stu Franklyn and his wife Gert and Mort Hollender and his wife Beth are taking a much-needed vacation together. Things begin to unravel quickly when Beth is hurt during a mixed doubles tennis match and Mort accuses Stu of having caused her injury by lobbing the ball.



Tickets for this event may be purchased by following the link:

<http://trybooking.com.au/PTMG>

### **Business Management students learn from industrial experience**

VCE Unit 3/4 Business Management students have recently been learning about employee relations and human resource management. They were lucky to witness a clash of sorts of two titans in the classroom- the AusPost HR team explaining the challenges they face when trying to negotiate an enterprise agreement with the unions vs a representative from Trades Hall Victoria on the role of unions and their achievement. Students were required to evaluate the benefits and limitations of various workplace relations models in the course. Debates such as these help shape their decisions.

The VCE Unit 1/2 Business Management students are learning the ropes of starting a business enterprise. They got the chance to visit the Brunswick Business Incubator, tour the facility, meet entrepreneurs to understand why they set up their office/ warehouse in the Incubator and the support services they receive. We even met an ex-student of Swinburne Senior Secondary College who has started a candle and soap-making unit and operates from the Incubator.

They are learning about the different support services available for business startups. They are also working on

creating a business plan for their business and all the entrepreneurs they met wished they had been taught that at school!

The best way to learn is to hear it from the “horse’s mouth” as they say and the purpose of these activities is to bring industry into the classroom.

*Gita Menon*

*Business Management Teacher*

### ***It takes courage to make drastic changes in our lives.***

Campbell holds his father’s arm as the train crawls along its tracks. Campbell is small for a 9 year old. Most people know Campbell as ‘Shortie’. “Shortie, next stop is ours”. Campbell nods and proceeds to watch the land passing by. Campbell never liked being called ‘Shortie’. He did not like to be different, he especially did not like it being pointed out either. Campbell feels as if his physical appearance defines who he is: small, innocent and vulnerable but he is strong, he is big and smart. He knows it too.

Campbell’s father takes his hand and they walk off the train. “Heading over to platform 2 Shortie”. Campbell nods at his father.

“You’re a mute today?” Campbell pauses for a moment. “No I am just tired” he sighs. Father and son continue walking onto the train platform, to wait for their next train. Campbell walks in front of his father and takes a seat next to a lady on the platform. The lady is wearing a large black cloth over her face and body. The lady is wearing a Niqab. She politely moves along the seat, leaving room for Campbell and his father. His father grabs his hand again. ‘Let’s sit over there, on that seat’. He points to a smaller row of seats, with two men already sitting there. “ But, this seat has more room” Campbell challenges his father. His father takes his hand and they walk over to the other bench.

As they sit down, the two men stand and walk off. One man is tall, with short dirty blonde hair and pale skin. The man is swearing a lot at the other man, who is slightly shorter with tan skin and black hair. They laugh together and sit on the bench next to the lady. The blonde man sits close to the lady, too close. He looks at her. “So what do we have here?” The lady looks down, unaware she is being spoken to. “There isn’t anything there, it’s just a black shadow”. The pair laughs simultaneously. The lady stands up and moves, standing in between Campbell’s seat and the seat the men sit on. The blonde man stands and brushes his hands across the lady’s veil covering her face. The lady seems intimidated. Campbell looks to his father, concerned. “Just ignore it Shortie”. Campbell nods. The men continue to touch the ladies niqab, “Terrorists. They’re everywhere in our country”.



“I am not a terrorist. I am a Muslim.” The men laugh, then, begin tugging at the lady’s Niqab. “Dad, do something.” Campbell says firmly to his father. His father again, in a stern tone, repeats himself. “Ignore it Campbell”. Campbell, alarmed at not being called Shortie, realises he is weak. He is small. He is vulnerable. He cannot stand up for himself or for the lady being intimidated on the train platform. He cannot tell his father he feels so ashamed of his height and that is stopping him from helping the lady.

Campbell bursts from his seat, lunging towards the men “stop it!” he roars. The men turn and laugh at the boy, but Campbell stands in front of the lady glaring at the two men. The men back off, continuing to laugh. Nobody speaks and a loud rumble erupts in the distance. The train approaches, Campbell and his father step on the train. The train crawls away.

*Ella Child*  
*Year 12 English*

### Recycling and Sustainability at Swinburne

Swinburne has a co-mingled recycling program, with yellow “Eco Bins” dotted around the school for students and staff to use. It’s really important that we all take the split second to decide “*is this going to landfill, or can it be recycled?*”



Recycling is big part of all of our lives and operates across almost every facet of day to day living, however it does get a bit confusing at times, as different programs only recycle certain items. Please check the image provided to make sure you’re putting the right thing in the right bin! Unfortunately, if rubbish and items that can’t be recycled by this program end up in the yellow bins, it means the whole bin will go to landfill. So take that time to make the right choice!

Head to [www.ecobin.com.au](http://www.ecobin.com.au) for more information.

As we approach winter it’s also important to make sure that staff and students alike are aware of their use of lighting and heating around the school. If you’ve finished using a room, turn the light off, and make sure the heating is being used appropriately to suit the room; don’t turn it into a sauna!

Your pal,

*Nick Taylor*  
*Recycling Warrior*

### A Private Experience

Hundreds of bodies swarmed around you, running blindly like ants escaping water being poured on their nest. Hitting into each other, pushing and shoving, their desperation evident from the morality you know they all felt. You stood in the middle of this madness frozen in horror watching the black bodies flee, each bump on unfamiliar flesh gripping your insides harder, restricting movement. Your eyes dart wildly back and forth scanning through the poor faces, searching for the one you need. You recall your little sister Chika turning to you what felt like hours ago, explaining in the excitement only she can produce that “the groundnut store is in that row Nnedi”, pleading that she’ll “meet up with you later”. You now kick yourself for letting her go, pained at the fact that she is now just another ant amongst hundreds.

Your ears are blocked forcing silence. You can still see the fellow Christian women screaming blood and you remember when her voice split through the hum of the market causing you to drop the supple oranges you had in your hands.

“They are killing us all. The Muslims are killing the Christians” she howled.

The cross around your neck sticks to your chest almost burning through. It’s not until you see the oranges falling, darting through feet escaping, that you too start to run, desperation filling you up. Eyes not stopping for a minute, you too become a member of madness searching for Chika.

The pressure you feel from the bodies raises the acidic feel of bile, bubbling violently and threatening to burst. The

bodies around you run blindly, carelessly, their faces move, eyes wide so the white shines through their dark complexion. This is paired with their teeth splitting thorough screaming mouths. Their arms move wildly, gripping and pulling through the air in front of them, aching for a safe place. You can't help but picture Chika running through this crowd. You pray she isn't one of the bodies you see laying on the ground, trampled by desperation.

You see your first body when you see your first Muslim. You had turned a corner, back scraping against a turned over cart with wheels spinning endlessly, when your searching eyes meet her face. Her head scarf lay skewed on her head barely clinging on as her neck sat on such an angle you feel it may snap. Her mouth moved with spit flying fast from her pursed lips, tears running from forcefully shut eyes. You noticed the body whilst watching her chest heave rhythmically up and down. He could be no older than 10 years old and lay limp in her arms, face pushed against her breast with a single line of blood dripping from the side of his mouth.

You remember back to when you were 10 years old. You and Chika had gone to a market very similar to this one in Lagos with your Grandmama. She was a staunch Christian woman and the biggest influence in your beliefs. You had been looking at all the colours from the fruit stand when a Muslim woman reached over your shoulder, a bag of oranges in her hands hitting you softly. She had turned to speak to you when your Grandmama grabbed your arm, ripping the roots of your feet from the ground. She didn't stop pulling until you and Chika had entered the next row, not wanting you to even see her or breathe the same air. Your Grandmama turned to you both, "dangerous people" is all she said. You had believed wholeheartedly, but looking at this mother and son now your heart faulted.

You couldn't understand.

Vomit erupted from your mouth onto the damp ground below you, your stomach was too full, but your chest had a gaping hole. Searching in this crowd seemed useless, Chika couldn't be one of the bodies. Turning on the spot you spied an exit, blind to the ants too far eaten by fear. You ran against the flow of the crowd, feeling future bruises be made but the adrenaline removing any pain. You felt immortal. You stood at the exit and screamed into the emptiness for Chika.

You had just lifted your left foot ready to run when you felt hands grab you, ripping you back to earth. Your head smashed against the ground blurring your vision and dust invaded your entire body through your mouth and eyes. You were dragged by your hair along the ground, sticks and stones splitting your skin as you screamed, curdling even your own blood. You were discarded on the ground and your flowing tears washed the dirt from your eyes. Staring

through the feet of these takers your vision was neatly blinded from the glint the sun made on the machete hanging to the left of your head. You could see the Muslim mother and son laying tangled in their last embrace. Their blood trickled together then towards you. You can see small black ants drowning in the flow. You picture your sister sitting safe behind the exit, silence just for her.

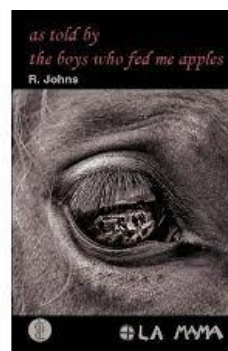
You lay staring at the red river coming towards you, waiting for your own Christian blood to join the flow.

*Fenn Murray*  
Year 12 English

### La Mama Play Review

Our Year 11 and 12 Drama classes were treated to a stunning production of *As Told To Me by the Boys who Fed Me Apples*, performed at La Mama Theatre in Carlton. This play introduced to us a range of acting techniques and styles that brought the actor's performance to full effect, and skilfully intertwined the different stories and perspectives to leave a lasting impression on the audience.

This production was rich in a variety of characters, scenarios and personalities that were introduced to us almost masterfully through abrupt scene changes, moments of tension before a powerful climax, and small costume and set changes, that were kept quite simple and really brought the elements of 'Poor Theatre' into effect. Through the play's dramatic, descriptive monologue, we were able to distinguish the difference between the sometimes obscure visions of our characters, to the harsh reality of war they had, over time, become accustomed to.





From a personal view, I felt the play was executed in a way that made it easy to enjoy and use as a basis for our analysis of a production. The performance wasn't particularly intense or shockingly dramatic, which was enjoyable as I feel this can be overdone in a rather dark storyline and take away from a well-rounded script.

Our group thoroughly enjoyed the production, and were taken aback by the effective acting and performance in mime, dramatic monologue, expressive gesture, and even a few melodramatic moments around the stage. We were able to have an in-depth and enjoyable discussion back in class, which helped us to share different opinions on the performance style and our experience with the play.



I'd like to thank Meiki and Belinda for organising this. It was a marvelous experience for the two classes, and we enjoyed being able to see a production in action in preparation for the year ahead.

*Orla Mundy*  
*Year 11 Drama Student*

## **SRC Report: Boroondara Youth Forum 2017**

Kate Kleinitz, Meiki Apted and I represented Swinburne at the first ever 360 Boroondara Youth Forum on 29/3/17. Students and teachers from other schools also attended the forum, including students from Methodist Ladies College, Balwyn High, Kew High, and Preshil. The forum commenced with a quick introduction from a counsellor who works at Boroondara council. We were given coloured yellow, blue, green and pink name tags and we then had to find other students in the facility who wore the same coloured name tags. These people would become our group for the day.

The first activity my group (yellow group) got involved with was a presentation from volunteers at HeadSpace. We discussed a variety of issues regarding mental health, such as anxiety, depression, and suicide. We watched a testimony from a young woman who talked about her experience with depression, and how it interfered with her family life, her friends and her studies. After the presentation, the volunteers also asked us questions regarding mental health. If any of us answered the questions correctly, we would be awarded chocolate bars.

After the HeadSpace presentation/Q&A, my group met with people who worked at the council who shared with us plans and future projects within the Boroondara community. The future plans included plans to reduce congestion on the roads, plans to build and upgrade parks, plans to build more small businesses etc. We were then able to offer suggestions and ideas for what we wanted in the community. A key issue many people in my group raised was the need to accommodate the homeless. My idea was to provide more facilities or 'safe shelters' for people fleeing domestic violence.

The final activity for the day was a very insightful presentation about sexism and gender stereotypes within our society. I found out that between 80-100 women die from the hands of their male partners every single year! The two presenters also stated that not enough has been done to combat the problem, and I agree entirely. The presenters also discussed the way that women and girls are sexualised and viewed as objects in pop-culture, and that it sets a misleading example to young girls across the world.

The people that organised the forum, including Kate from our school, were 100% onto the task. They were accommodating and easily approachable. They provided the students and staff with food for recess and lunch and also ran various activities during the breaks which everyone enjoyed. I found it to be a very interesting and fulfilling day and I commend the staff at Boroondara Council and all the student leaders for arranging such a successful day.

**Swinburne's SRC runs meetings every Thursday at Lunchtime with Meiki. The SRC organise special events and discuss school issues from a student's perspective. To get involved or raise an issue, speak to Meiki Apted, Luke McCracken, or any of the school captains (Tish, Caitlin, India or Georgie). Or just turn up to T3 on a Thursday!**

*Luke McCracken  
Year 11*



